THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The US has stated that the purpose of the visit of the US President to India from March 20, 2000 is to pave the way for a qualitatively new relationship. President Clinton stated on 1st February 2000, I'm going because it's the biggest democracy in the world and I think we have not been working with them enough.

(c) Both sides agree that the visit of the US President to India provides an opportunity to strengthen mutual understanding on political and security matters and intensify mutually beneficial co-operation in trade and investment, science and technology, energy and environment, health, education and culture, counter-terrorism and narcotics control.

Preconditions attached to Clinton's visit

2349. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preceding the US President's visit to New Delhi, Washington has been making unreasonable demands and using it as an instrument of pressure on India;

(b) if so, what pressures have been put up on India and what demands have been made on India, on the eve of US president's visit; and

(c) whether commitment for signing of Non-Proliferation Treaty and CTBT have been set as conditions precedent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The US President is scheduled to visit India for five days from 20th March 2000. Both sides agree that the objective of the visit of the US President to India is to pave the way for a qualitatively new, broad-based and forward-looking relationship.

(c) The US has conveyed no pre-conditions for die visit of die US President to India.

Status of developing super computer of C-DAC, Pune

2350. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister
of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large sum of money has been spent at Center for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC Pune, for developing super computer; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of this project?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) was set up in March 1988 as the national initiative for the Design and Development of High Performance Computing Systems and Technologies. C-DAC has operated in a mission mode since then, and has completed its First and Second Missions within the time and cost frames. C-DAC is presently pursuing its Third Mission which Started in January 1999 and is scheduled to be completed by June 2002.

PARAM series of Super Computers were developed and delivered based on parallel processing technology, namely, PARAM 8000, 8600, 9000, Open Frame, 10000 and l0000P. Thirty one systems have so far been supplied to various organisations in India and another 8 overseas.

In order to keep pace with fast changing technologies in this area, C-DAC, presently, has a focus on the development of Hardware, System Software and application software. This includes Systems Area Networks (SAN), programmable hardware libraries, use of commodity PC elements for scalable parallel super computing technologies, high performance communication sub-systems and storage systems and software for Scientific, Engineering, business and commercial applications.

Since the inception of C-DAC an amount of approximately Rs. 75 crores has been provided so far, as a budgetary support to C-DAC for development of High Performance Computing Technology and Applications (Super Computer Systems). In addition, C-DAC has invested Rs. 12.5 crores out of its revenue generation to augment the budgetary support for the developmental activities.

Demonstration by daily-wage and honorary employees

2351. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the demonstration staged by daily-wage and honorary employees in Hubli (Karnataka) to observe an Unfulfilled constitutional Rights Day on the 26th January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government are seized of the problems faced by unorganised daily-wage and other workers/including child labour; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to secure their constitutional rights, including social security against exploitation?